

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 10, according to the following marked-up version of this paragraph:

As discussed more fully below, native or dried gelatinized starch can be used as particulate fillers in order to increase the dead-fold properties of sheets and films made from a particular polymer or polymer blend. However, to the extent that starches become thermoplastic but retain a ~~substantially~~ substantial portion of their crystallinity, such starches may act as "stiff", rather than "soft", polymers.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 14, according to the following marked-up version of this paragraph:

Finally, although starch, such as modified starch or starch that has been gelatinized with water and subsequently dried, is known to have a high glass transition temperature (*i.e.*, 70-85° C.) and be very crystalline at room temperature, certain forms of starch in which the crystallinity has been greatly reduced or destroyed altogether can have very low glass transition temperatures and may, in fact, constitute "soft" biodegradable polymers within the scope of the invention. As discussed more fully below, native or dried gelatinized starch can be used as particulate fillers in order to increase the dead-fold properties of sheets and films made from a particular polymer or polymer blend. Moreover, to the extent that starches become thermoplastic but retain a ~~substantially~~ substantial portion of their crystallinity, such starches may act as "stiff", rather than "soft", polymers. Nevertheless, there exists a range of thermoplastic starch polymers that can behave as "soft" polymers.